

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1964



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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Divisional Health Offices,  
Brogden Street,  
Ulverston.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1964.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	8,022.
Population - Census, 1961	10,316
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1964	10,360
Number of inhabited houses	3,512
Rateable Value	£232,210
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£942.

The Urban District of Dalton-in-Furness is situated in the North Western part of the County of Lancashire adjoining the County Borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the North Lonsdale Rural District. Height above Ordnance Datum varies between 850 feet in the north-east to sea level in the west. There are outcrops of limestone in various parts of the District and in the past there has been extensive mining for iron ore which has left the surface considerably scarred and some of the low lying areas flooded with water.

The chief industries are viscose manufacturing, shoe-making, brickworks, clothing manufacture and agriculture, but a large proportion of the male working population is employed in the shipyards and steel-works at Barrow.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for the year 1964 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

193 live births were registered, 98 being males and 95 females. 3 male and 3 female were illegitimate.

Approximately 65.4% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principal causes of death were:- Heart disease 43, Malignant growths, 21 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 16. Of the 43 deaths from Heart disease, 28 were due to Coronary Artery disease.

Year	Live Births	Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Rate per 1,000 live births
		Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	Number regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	Number regis- tered	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Total	
1964	193	18.6	110	10.6	6	30.2	1	5.03	3	15.5
1963	157	15.2	160	15.5	4	24.8	Nil	Nil	4	25.5
1962	168	16.3	135	13.1	3	17.5	Nil	Nil	6	35.7
1961	156	15.1	148	14.3	6	37.0	Nil	Nil	4	25.6
1960	167	16.3	136	13.3	2	11.8	Nil	Nil	3	18
1959	154	15.0	139	13.6	1	6.5	Nil	Nil	6	39
Average 5 years 1959-63	-	15.6	-	14.0	-	19.5	-	-	-	28.8
									2	22.5

Adjusted live birth rate 1964 (comparability factor 1.05) = 19.6 per 1,000  
Adjusted death rate 1964 (comparability factor, 1.06) = 11.2 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales		Dalton-in-Furness Urban District	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1964	18.4	11.3	19.6	11.2
1963	17.3	12.2	16.0	16.4
1962	18.0	11.9	16.6	13.6
1961	17.4	12.0	15.4	14.9
1960	17.1	11.5	16.7	13.8

#### STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir.,  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -  
Ulverston Urban District  
Council, Grange-over-Sands  
Urban District Council,  
North Lonsdale Rural District  
Council.

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1  
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:-

K.C. McCUTCHEON, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Meat and Other Foods  
Inspectors Certificate

Other Appointments Held:-

Cleansing Superintendent and Housing  
Manager - Dalton-in-Furness Urban  
District Council.

Additional Public Health Inspector:-

J.O. BAXTER, M.A.P.H.I.  
Meat and Other Foods  
Inspectors Certificate  
(appointed September)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICTWATER SUPPLY

The provision and maintenance of public water supplies throughout the District is the responsibility of the Furness Water Board. Dalton is supplied from Poaka Beck reservoir and Askam from the Ulpha intake of the River Duddon.

No new sources of supply were acquired during the year but the main was extended to supply the new estate of private dwellings at Dalton and to six existing bungalows at Martin.

The supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

3,530 houses are now supplied direct from public mains, 3 from standpipes and 14 have private supplies.

SEWERAGE

The sewage from Dalton is taken to screening tanks near the site of the old gasworks and the effluent is then discharged to the Barrow Corporation sewerage system. The sewage from Askam is passed through screening tanks and the effluent discharged to the Duddon estuary. Sewage from the hamlet of Newton passes through a settlement tank, the effluent being discharged to a stream. Lindal and Martin have modern sewage disposal plant where full treatment is given before discharging the effluent to nearby streams.

6 houses have privy middens and another 2 have pail closets, the remainder being on the water carriage system.

HOUSING

Property in the District is generally 60-80 years old, terrace type opening direct on to the street. For the most part the houses are structurally sound, but many are without modern amenities such as baths and hot water system. There is a general lack of damp courses but little evidence of rising dampness. Repairs and improvements are slow to be carried out. A notable feature is the number of houses which are owner/occupied; this is estimated by the Rates Department to be 70% of the total hereditaments. In addition a further 17% are owned by the Council.

A caravan site at Askam is licensed for 17 permanent and 45 holiday caravans.

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-

	Houses	Flats
(1) By the local authority	-	-
(2) By other local authorities	-	-
(3) By other bodies or persons	95	-

(2) Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year

609

(3) Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	79
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	112
(c) No. of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	18
(2) Total No. of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which	
(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)	17
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made	6

(4) Houses Demolished:-	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas:			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	-	6	3
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	-	-	-
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas:	Nil	-	-
(5) Unfit Houses Closed:-	Number	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	1	2	1
(6) Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied	By Owner	By Local Authority	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	15	-	-
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957	1	-	-
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	-	-	-
(7) Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :-		Nil	
(8) Purchase of Houses by Agreement			
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year ...	Nil		
(9) Housing Act, 1949 and Housing Financial Provisions) Act, 1951 - Improvement grants etc.	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of -		
		Private Bodies or individuals	Local Authority
Action taken during the year:-			
(1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	-	-	-
(2) Approved by local authority	-	-	-
(3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-	-
(4) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-	-
(5) Work completed	-	-	-
(6) Additional separate dwellings included in (5) above	-	-	-
(10) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964 - Standard Grants:-	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected		
		Action during year:	
(1) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to full standard.	61		
(2) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to reduced standard	-		
(3) Total applications approved by local authority	59		
(4) Work completed	54		

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Urban District during the five years 1959-1963 compared with the number in 1964.

Disease	Number of cases in year					
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Scarlet fever	3	1	-	1	-	-
Measles	16	32	144	27	196	36
Whooping cough	-	-	17	-	7	6
Dysentery	-	-	-	3	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	-	3	4	2	-
Meningococcal infection	1	1	-	-	-	-
Food poisoning	-	1	8	-	-	-
TOTALS	25	35	172	35	206	42

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1964.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
35-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	-
	5		2		1		0	

The table below shows the number of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Dalton residents during the past 12 years.

Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1953	9	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
1954	10	4	1	-	1	1	-	-
1955	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
1956	6	9	-	-	3	-	-	-
1957	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
1958	8	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
1959	4	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
1960	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
1961	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
1962	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
1963	7	2	1	-	3	1	-	-
1964	3	2	1	1	1	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under the above-named Acts.

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The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WIIL.

Medical Officer of Health.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Dalton-in-Furness Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this portion of the Annual Report last year, I said that I could not report so much on achievements but more on aims for the future. In many respects that comment still applies since it was not until September that an Additional Public Health Inspector was appointed, and a start made on a detailed survey of all food premises in the area. At the time of writing this report, the survey is almost complete and the full results will be reported next year.

A start was also made on the inspection of those premises which come within the scope of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The Housing Act, 1964 was one piece of new legislation which came into operation during the year. The Act provides an element of compulsion with regard to the improvement of rented accommodation and enables local authorities to declare improvement areas. Certain alterations in procedure relating to improvement grants is also included in the Act.

A Housing Survey of the district would be of great assistance but I do not consider that such a survey can be undertaken at present.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The number of applications for Standard Grants was 61, which was slightly less than the number for the previous year. A total of 59 applications had been approved by the end of the year and 54 grants had been completed. Once again it was from owner/occupiers from whom applications were received.

A total of 175 visits were made in connection with improvement grants.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMILK SUPPLY

Samples of milk were taken as often as possible, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston for examination.

The following tables give details of the samples and results of examination

## 1. Samples for Biological Examination:-

Total No. of samples submitted 39.

Results:-	<u>Results</u>		
	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>No Result</u>
(a) Tuberculosis	0	3	36
(b) Brucellosis - Ring Test	4	35	0
(c) Brucellosis - Culture Test	3	1	35
(d) Brucellosis - Biological Test	0	0	39

2. Samples for Statutory Tests:-

	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Void Samples
Raw Milk:				
(a) Nethylene Blue Test	34	28	6	0
Heat treated Milk:				
(b) Methylene Blue Test)	0	0	0	0
(c) Phosphatase Test )	0	0	0	0
(d) Turbidity Test	0	0	0	0

Included in the 39 samples for Biological examination were 5 samples from individual cows in one herd in order to find the cows giving milk containing Brucella Organisms. The milk from the infected cows was not sold to the public in the raw state and subsequently this producer/retailer discontinued the sale of raw milk.

ICE CREAM

8 samples of ice-cream were submitted for examination and the results are shown in the following table:-

Provisional Grade	I	II	III	IV
No. of Samples	4	2	0	2

FOOD HYGIENE

As already mentioned in this report, a start was made in September on the detailed survey of all the food premises in the district, and as had been anticipated, many contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 were found. By the end of the year 87 written informal notices had been served, drawing the attention of the persons concerned to the contraventions of the Regulations. A reasonable amount of work was in progress and the co-operation of food traders was generally quite good. There is no doubt however, that no matter how modern a food premises may be or how good are the facilities provided, unless the food handlers themselves are conscious of the dangers which can result from bad hygiene, and ensure that their premises not only look clean but that clean practices are observed, then there will always be a danger. The shopping public can do much to help improve food hygiene by complaining as strongly as possible whenever unhygienic practices are seen. Unfortunately, far too often nothing is said.

At the end of the year the types of food premises in the district were as follows:-

General Grocers and provision dealers	49
Fishmongers	6
Meat Shops	10
Bakers and Confectioners	9
Fried Fish Shops	6
Shops selling mainly sugar, confectionery, minerals, etc.	11
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, cafes etc	41

EAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

There is one private slaughterhouse in the district and this is visited at all times when slaughtering is being carried out.

Details of the animals slaughtered and inspected is given in the following table.

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>excluding</u> <u>Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	70	3	-	194	1
Number inspected	70	3	-	194	1
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	3	-	15	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.	51.4%	100%	-	7.7%	-
<u>Tuberculosis - No. affected</u>					
Cysticercosis - No. affected	-	-	-	-	-

A total weight of 576 lbs of meat and offal was condemned as unfit for human consumption.

#### INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

A total weight of 277 lbs of assorted foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption after being voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

#### RODENT CONTROL

One part-time Rodent Operative is employed by the Council. During the year a total of 1062 visits were made to various premises in the district and 308 infested properties were treated.

A test baiting and treatment of the sewers was carried out but no major infestation of the sewers was found.

Two premises were found to be verminous and the necessary treatment was carried out.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

A survey was commenced on the premises to which this Act applied. It is interesting to note that in 1964 no less than 14 Statutory Instruments were received dealing with matters covered by the Act.

The number of premises registered at the end of the year was 51 and 19 visits were made in connection with 11 general inspections carried out.

#### CARAVAN SITE

Three site licences existed at the end of 1964, two being in respect of individual caravans and one for the site at Askam-in-Furness. Regular visits were made during the year to ensure that site conditions were satisfactory.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING

During 1964 the refuse collection service did not operate as smoothly as it should have done and numerous complaints were received from members of the public. The reasons for the shortcomings in the service were very involved and at the end of the year steps were being taken to resolve the difficulties.

A larger type of vehicle was purchased and put into operation in August and there is no doubt that this vehicle has shown a saving in the time spent in transporting refuse to the tip.

The total weight of refuse disposed of during the year is estimated at 2,796 tons.

The question of Trade Refuse presented a problem and after much deliberation the Council resolved to introduce a charge for the collection of Trade Refuse, such charge to take effect from 1st April, 1965.

The tip at Elliscates was not maintained as well as had been expected, this being due to a shortage of men on the cleansing staff and the difficulty of securing temporary workmen. Also, unauthorised persons were gaining access to the tip at week ends and setting refuse on fire. Due to the isolated position of the tip, it is very difficult to prevent such occurrences.

#### GENERAL

The routine day to day work of the department continued, complaints were received and dealt with, drains were inspected and numerous other matters attended to. A considerable amount of time is spent in interviewing members of the public etc., and because the management and maintenance of the Council's houses is my responsibility, much time has to be devoted to this work.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the consideration they have shown, and to the Medical Officer of Health and other Officers of the Council for their co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

K.C. McCUTCHEON.

Public Health Inspector.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
in respect of the year 1964 for the Dalton-in-Furness  
District in the County of Lancashire.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1 - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

<u>Premises</u>	Number on Register	<u>Number of -</u>		
		<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which section 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	13	3	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	34	12	3	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>

2 - Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	Found	Remedied	<u>Referred</u>	
			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	3
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3</b>

No prosecutions were instituted.

Part Vlll of the ActParticulars under Sections 133 and 134

No. of outworkers in August list Nil

No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council Nil





